

REMARKS

Responsive to the requirement for restriction, applicant elects Group I, claims 1-17, with traverse.

The requirement cannot properly be repeated, for the following reasons:

1. It is not accurate to say that the apparatus can be used to practice another and materially different process, namely to mold thermoplastic ophthalmic lenses. The needle valve according to claim 1 is not suitable for filling a mold with a thermoplastic material. A thermoplastic material ready to be injected in a mold is in a paste state and not in a liquid state. The paste made of such a material is not compatible with the various changes of flow cross-section of the valve.
2. Claim 18 is no longer limited to polymerization, but is generic to hardening, which covers both thermo-hardening and cross-linking.
3. Separate classification is no indication of the propriety of the requirement for restriction. Classification is solely for the convenience of the Patent Office and the searching public and cannot limit an applicant's rights in any way.

For any or all of the above reasons, therefore, it is believed that an action on the merits of all the claims is in order, and the same is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON



---

Robert J. Patch, Reg. No. 17,355  
745 South 23<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Arlington, VA 22202  
Telephone (703) 521-2297  
Telefax (703) 685-0573  
(703) 979-4709

RJP/fb